Alabama Chess Federation

# ALABAMA CHESS *ANTICS*

**August 2001** **$3.00**

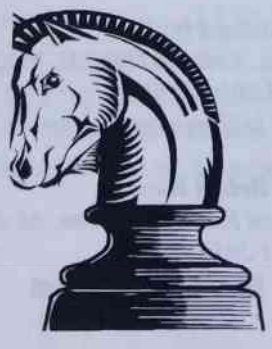
**THE GREAT STATE OF**

# ALABAMA

# 2001 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

## SEPTEMBER 1ST THRU 3RD

**BIRMINGHAM**



Annual Alabama Chess Federation
Business meeting and
Elections
Sunday, Sept. 2nd

# What's Inside

| | |
|---|---|
| ACF meeting agenda | 2 |
| Presidents Letter | 3 |
| Space City Open 2001 | 4 |
| Practical Opening Advice | 12 |
| Editors Ramblings | 13 |
| Belvedere Park Results | 13 |
| Games from Berlin Wall Tournament | 14 |
| 2001 Chess Championship | 17 |
| 2k Championship Cross-table | 18 |
| An Old Game | 22 |
| Sunday Quads Results | 23 |

## ACF Business Meeting Agenda

An ACF business meeting will be held during the Alabama State Championship tournament in Birmingham over Labor Day weekend. The meeting will start at 2:30pm on Sunday, September 2nd. All Are invited to attend and help coordinate future state activities. The agenda for the meeting is as follows;

1. Review of the minutes from the previous meeting.
2. Treasurers report.
3. Review of upcoming state tournaments.
4. Discussion and vote on recommendations of commit tee to change the ACF By-laws.

## *ACF Officers*

***President, Bill Melvin***

***Vice-President, Caesar Lawrence***

***Secretary & Treasurer, Vasha Rosenblum***

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# President's Letter

by Bill Melvin

The process for finding tournaments has been the same during the 19 years I've been playing tournament chess: flip open the latest Chess Life and look at the Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs) for Alabama and surrounding states. Several months ago the USCF decided that TLAs were "subsidized advertising" and they raised the rates way up. How high? If I wanted to run a very small tournament with a 5 line ad in two issues I'd be out $52.50. For a more reasonable 10 line ad in two issues it would cost $90. Ouch! For organizers who often lose money anyway this has been seen as unacceptable.

As proof that organizers aren't paying this premium, I counted up the ads in the July 2001 Chess Life for states surrounding Alabama. Note that this is the same time of the year that Miles and I planned our 8 week road trip last year so I know that plenty of tournaments are being held. Alabama has 0 TLA entries. Georgia has 1 and it isn't from the Atlanta Chess and Games Center. Mississippi has 0 entries. Tennessee has 1 entry. Florida has 4 entries. It is pretty obvious that organizers have reacted in unison the only way they know how: stop the TLAs in Chess Life. This has changed the way I currently find my tournaments. Now, I look to the internet first. Chess Life has effectively discarded one of the most useful features of the magazine.

No need to panic, though. The subject is getting widespread attention. Out of the 10 "Executive Board Candidate Statements" in the July Chess Life, 4 of the candidates specifically mention being in favor of rescinding the TLA fee increases. I'm sure many of the remaining 6 are in favor of rescinding the change as well and didn't include it in their statements. The system is working and silly ideas like charging organizers outlandish rates for TLAs can be changed back by smarter folks. In the meantime, hone up on your internet searching skills.

One internet resource that some folks haven't heard about is the ACF mailing list. Information, stories, tournament announcements, etc. are periodically sent out on the list. An e-mail to acf@cis.uab.edu reaches everyone on the list. To be added to the list, send an e-mail to ACF-Request@cis.uab.edu and ask to be added. Special thanks to Ken Sloan for maintaining this resource.

Enjoy this issue and what is left of summer.

# SPACE CITY OPEN TOURNAMENT REPORT

**by David Hayes**

The 2001 Space City Open (21-22 April) was the highest rated event ever conducted to date in the State of Alabama. The unprecedented prize fund attracted three Grand Masters. They were GM Alek Wojkiewicz (pronounced vote'-ka-vich) from New York, GM Pavel Blatny from France, and GM Semion Palatnik from Tennessee. GM Wojkiewicz is the 4th highest rated player (2680) in the United States. He is also the 2000 Grand Prix winner. The entry list for the Open Section found our highest rated Huntsville Chess Club players, Bill Melvin, Matthew Puckett, and Charles Meidinger (all Masters) seeded 10, 11, and 13 respectively. For the record they finished 12th, 17th, and 10th respectively. The number of high-rated players who entered this tournament attests to the fact that money talks.

The $3185 unconditional prize fund included $1000 + trophy + 14 Grand Prix points for 1st place in the Open Section, and $500 + trophy for 1st place in the Reserve Section. This prize fund was made possible by the generous donations of Huntsville Chess Club patrons.

The Open Section was won by a 4-way tie between GM Wojkiewicz, GM Blatny, GM Palatnik, and Todd Andrews with 4 points each. Jake Kleiman was top expert with 3.5 points. Walt Smith was the top under-2000 rated player also with 3.5 points. The highest placed Huntsville Chess Club member was Charles Meidinger at 10th with 3 points.

Other Huntsville Chess Club members in the Open Section were Gerald Larson who finished 18th with 2 points, John Schweinsberg who finished 19th with 2 points, and Mike Begala who finished 22nd with 1.5 points out of a field of 28 players.

The Reserve Section attracted 32 players. The top seed and Huntsville Chess Club member Bill Savoie won with 4.5 points. There was a three-way tie for second place between two Huntsville Chess Club members Greg Funaro, Roger McIntyre, and Bob Bashinski.

Other Huntsville Chess Club members in the Reserve Section were:

| NAME | PLACE | SCORE |
|---|---|---|
| Joseph Chaffee | 9th | 3.5 |
| Miles Melvin | 11th | 3 |
| Chris Lasky | 14th | 2.5 |
| Jafar Daskar | 21st | 2 |
| Stephen Webb | 28th | 1.5 |

A Space City Open scholastic K-6 tournament was held to accommodate the wishes of local school clubs. The Saturday only event format was 5-round game-in-30 minutes. First through fifth trophies in a field of 12 entries were distributed as follows:

| NAME | PLACE | SCORE |
|---|---|---|
| Sanket Shah | 1st | 5 |
| Matt Chandler | 2nd | 4 |
| Chandler Mills | 3rd | 3 |
| Travis Letson | 4th | 2.5 |
| Tchaasu Taylor | 5th | 2.5 |

The tournament directors were Frank Camaratta for the Open and Reserve Sections and David Hayes for the Scholastic Section. There were no protests. However, one interesting and complex event was worth noting. One of the Grand Masters failed to keep a complete game score during the course of the game. While he attempted to complete his game score, his opponent's flag fell. His opponent wisely called his own flag, noting that a complete game score (at the time of the call) is required to make a claim of time forfeit. The game therefore continued into the next time control. This controversial rule in effect punishes a player who does not keep a complete game score during the course of the game. A player may not keep the game in play while he completes his game score, if his opponent calls his own fallen flag.

*Continued on page 5*

# 2001 SPACE CITY OPEN

## OPEN SECTION CROSSTABLE

| No. | Name | St | Rating | Rd1 | Rd2 | Rd3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GM Wojkiewicz, Alek | NY | 2680 | D14 | W18 | W23 | W8 | D3 | 4.0 |
| 2 | GM Blatny, Pavel | FR | 2623 | W6 | W9 | L8 | W17 | W5 | 4.0 |
| 3 | GM Palatnik, Semion | TN | 2564 | W15 | W23 | W11 | D5 | D1 | 4.0 |
| 4 | Andrews, Todd | TN | 2339 | W20 | W13 | L5 | W10 | W8 | 4.0 |
| 5 | Tcherepanov, Andre | GA | 2550 | W24 | W17 | W4 | D3 | L2 | 3.5 |
| 6 | Kleiman, Jake | TN | 2092 | L2 | W14 | D12 | X23 | W11 | 3.5 |
| 7 | Smith, Walter | TN | 1886 | L11 | W28 | W13 | D1 | W14 | 3.5 |
| 8 | Muhammad, Stephen | GA | 2390 | W16 | W12 | W2 | L1 | L4 | 3.0 |
| 9 | Wheeler, Jerry | TN | 2219 | W19 | L2 | W18 | D1 | -H- | 3.0 |
| 10 | Meidinger, Charles | AL | 2154 | W22 | L11 | W19 | L4 | W17 | 3.0 |
| 11 | Bereolos, Peter | TN | 2368 | W7 | W10 | L3 | D9 | L6 | 2.5 |
| 12 | Melvin, Bill | AL | 2214 | W21 | L8 | D6 | D7 | D13 | 2.5 |
| 13 | Barber, Nicholas | TN | 2168 | W25 | L4 | L7 | W20 | D12 | 2.5 |
| 14 | Dickerson, Leonard | TN | 2097 | D1 | L6 | W22 | W16 | L7 | 2.5 |
| 15 | Smith, Brian | TN | 2088 | L3 | W21 | L17 | W19 | D18 | 2.5 |
| 16 | Pruitt, Robert | AL | 1949 | L8 | W25 | -H- | L14 | W21 | 2.5 |
| 17 | Puckett, Matthew | AL | 2172 | W28 | L5 | W15 | L2 | L10 | 2.0 |
| 18 | Larson, Gerald | AL | 2100 | W26 | L1 | L9 | D21 | D15 | 2.0 |
| 19 | Schweinsberg, John | AL | 1815 | L9 | W26 | L10 | L15 | W25 | 2.0 |
| 20 | Meadows, Robert | TN | 1870 | L4 | L24 | W25 | L13 | D22 | 1.5 |
| 21 | Peele, Rhodes | AL | 1810 | L12 | L15 | X28 | D18 | L16 | 1.5 |
| 22 | Begala, Mike | AL | 1599 | L10 | -B- | L14 | L25 | D20 | 1.5 |
| 23 | Elezej, Esad | TN | 2240 | X27 | L3 | L1 | F6 | -U- | 1.0 |
| 24 | Aeria, Ulric | AL | 2013 | L5 | W20 | -U- | -U- | -U- | 1.0 |
| 25 | Stribling, Mark | AL | 1611 | L13 | L16 | L20 | W22 | L19 | 1.0 |
| 26 | Petty, Kirk | LA | 1908 | L18 | L19 | -U- | -U- | -U- | 0.0 |
| 27 | Lawrence, Caesar | AL | 1833 | F23 | -U- | -U- | -U- | -U- | 0.0 |
| 28 | Khalegi, Bijan | AL | 1807 | L17 | L7 | F21 | -U- | -U- | 0.0 |

## RESERVE SECTION CROSSTABLE

| No. | Name | St | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Savoie, William | AL | 1746 | W22 | W10 | W15 | W8 | D2 | 4.5 |
| 2 | Funaro, Gregory | AL | 1746 | W17 | W4 | D3 | W6 | D1 | 4.0 |
| 3 | McIntyre, Roger | AL | 1646 | W32 | W25 | D2 | W19 | D5 | 4.0 |
| 4 | Bashinsky, Robert | AL | 1539 | W23 | L2 | W24 | W13 | W10 | 4.0 |
| 5 | West, Ottie | TN | 1792 | L8 | W31 | W11 | W21 | D3 | 3.5 |
| 6 | Miller, Lee | TN | 1607 | W27 | W29 | W19 | L2 | D8 | 3.5 |
| 7 | Salenas, Daniel | AL | 1549 | -H- | F14 | W31 | W29 | W15 | 3.5 |
| 8 | Causey, Lamar | AL | 1490 | W5 | W16 | W14 | L1 | D6 | 3.5 |
| 9 | Chaffee, Joseph | AL | 1248 | L10 | W22 | W25 | D15 | W19 | 3.5 |
| 10 | Morrison, William | AL | 1562 | W9 | L1 | W26 | W12 | L4 | 3.0 |
| 11 | Melvin, Miles | AL | 1420 | -H- | D26 | L5 | W23 | W21 | 3.0 |
| 12 | Baker, Josh | AL | 907 | L20 | W18 | W16 | L10 | W25 | 3.0 |
| 13 | Kennerly, Joel | TN | nnnn | W21 | L15 | W17 | L4 | W20 | 3.0 |
| 14 | Lasky, Chris | AL | 1640 | D26 | X7 | L8 | D20 | D17 | 2.5 |
| 15 | Bowen, James | AL | 1596 | W30 | W13 | L1 | D9 | L7 | 2.5 |
| 16 | Jenkins, Wayne | TN | 1583 | D31 | L8 | L12 | W27 | W26 | 2.5 |
| 17 | Abdel-Ghany, Moham | AL | 1460 | L2 | W23 | L13 | W22 | D14 | 2.5 |

*Continued on page 6*

*Continued from page 5*

**SPACE CITY OPEN TOURNAMENT REPORT**
By David Hayes

SPACE CITY OPEN
RESERVE SECTION CROSSTABLE

| No. | Name | St | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | Parks, Quinn | AL | 1394 | L19 | L12 | D27 | W24 | W29 | 2.5 |
| 19 | Wolff, Joshua | TN | 1648 | W18 | W20 | L6 | L3 | L9 | 2.0 |
| 20 | Bankston, Charles | AL | 1500 | W12 | L19 | D29 | D14 | L13 | 2.0 |
| 21 | Daskar, Jafar | AL | 1495 | L13 | W30 | W28 | L5 | L11 | 2.0 |
| 22 | O'Connor, John | AL | 1400 | L1 | L9 | W30 | L17 | W28 | 2.0 |
| 23 | McMeen, Bryan | AL | 1162 | L4 | L17 | W32 | L11 | W30 | 2.0 |
| 24 | Esslinger, William | AL | 1098 | L25 | W32 | L4 | L18 | W31 | 2.0 |
| 25 | Hedger, Wayne | TN | 1520 | W24 | L3 | L9 | D26 | L12 | 1.5 |
| 26 | Ljubas, Robert | AL | 1365 | D14 | D11 | L10 | D25 | L16 | 1.5 |
| 27 | Griffin, Jim | AL | 1342 | L6 | L28 | D18 | L16 | W32 | 1.5 |
| 28 | Webb, Stephen | AL | 995 | L29 | W27 | L21 | -H- | L22 | 1.5 |
| 29 | Griffin, Christopher | AL | nnnn | W28 | L6 | D20 | L7 | L18 | 1.5 |
| 30 | McCormick, Brian | AL | 1304 | L15 | L21 | L22 | W32 | L23 | 1.0 |
| 31 | Wilder, Gregory | AL | 1276 | D16 | L5 | L7 | -H- | L24 | 1.0 |
| 32 | Brown, James | AL | 1372 | L3 | L24 | L23 | L30 | L27 | 0.0 |

# GAMES FROM THE SPACE CITY OPEN

Sacrificial madmen sometimes draw too!

by Bill Melvin

The Space City Open saw me finish with a disappointing one win, one loss, and three draws. I didn't get to play any of the three GMs in attendance and two of the draws were especially short. But, it is possible to fight hard and still end up with a quick draw. The game below with Walter Smith (who had a great tournament) is representative of most of my efforts during this disappointing result.

Space City Open April 22, 2001
Round 4 Board 106 40/90 SD/30
Bill Melvin (2214) Walter Smith (1886)

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 g6
6. Be3 Bg7
7. f3 O-O
8. Qd2 Nc6
9. O-O-O ...

***Continued on page 7***

*Continued from page 6*

**SPACE CITY OPEN TOURNAMENT REORT**

***Game continued***

The Huntsville Chess Club is playing a pair of e-mail chess games with the Birmingham Chess Club. In Huntsville's white game the database gurus of the club (Greg Funaro and Roger McIntyre) showed how well white scores with 9. O-O-O. In the past, I've usually played 9. Bc4 with mixed results. My lone previous foray into 9. O-O-O ended up on the worse end of a draw. From the Birmingham game, I'm still not convinced that 9. O-O-O is any better. The jury is still out in my book.

9. ... Bd7?

This move has to get a question mark. The theoretical move here is 9. ... d5 where black immediately fights for the center. Complicated lines abound. Black goes a pawn down in some of them but always seems to keep compensation. After 9. ... Bd7, white gets a free shot at the kingside and black's normal play doesn't work as well. For example, white would gladly trade the f1 bishop for the c6 knight (after ...Ne5-c4 or ... Na5-c4) and save the two tempi from not playing Bc4-b3xc4. I was now confident that I would win easily with a smashing attack.

9. g4 Rc8
10. h4 h5
11. Nxc6 bxc6
12. e5 ...

This doesn't work out for white. I should have played 13. Bg5 where white keeps substantial pressure. Black plays a thematic sacrifice to stay in the game. Moves like 13. ... dxe5 would have been met decisively by 14. g5 winning a piece without substantial compensation. Black gets plenty of compensation for the piece sacrificed during the game.

13. ... Nxg4!
14. fxg4 Bxg4
15. Be2 Bxe2
16. Nxe2 Bxe5

Black has three solid pawns for the piece. It only remains to be seen whether or not black can withstand white's kingside attack.

13. Bd4 Bxd4
14. Qxd4 Qb6
15. Qd2 Rb8
16. b3 Qb4
17. Qh6 Qa5

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

## GAMES FROM THE SPACE CITY OPEN

I just knew that black was busted now, but the queen covers a lot of ground from a5. It holds h5 and can come back to g7 via e5.

13. Rhg1 Qe5
14. Nf4 Qa1
15. Kd2 Qd4
16. Nd3 ...

This knight retreat doesn't inspire confidence in 23. Nf4. I didn't want a draw by repetition after 25. Kc1 Qa1 and 25. Ke2 Qe4 26. Kf2 Qxc2 doesn't work out for white.

25. ... Rb5
26. Rdf1 Rf5!

I was threatening 27. Rxg6 and on 26. ... Rfb8 I had prepared 27. Rxf7! This surprise move stops my attack cold.

25. Rxf5 Qxg1
26. Rg5 Qh2
27. Kc3 Qxh4

I had originally planned 30. Nf4 here, but 30. ... Qxf4 31. Rxg6 fxg6 and white can resign. Black is now threatening to either avoid the perpetual with Rf8-somewhere or play e7-e5 and start the pawns rolling. If I don't get checkmate then I lose. I wisely decided upon...

25. Rxg6 Draw

½ - ½

White will give perpetual check. No shame in drawing when both players fought so hard. Walter outplayed me the whole game after 9. ... Bd7 and I was probably fortunate to even draw.

Space City Open April 21, 2001
Round 3 Reserve Section 40/90 SD/30
Greg Funaro (1746) Roger McIntyre (1646)

Notes by Roger McIntyre

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 cxd4

*Continued on page 9*

*Continued from page 8*

**GAMES FROM THE SPACE CITY OPEN**

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 d6
3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 a6
6. Be3 e5
7. Nf5? ...

(This is not a good move. 7. Nb3 or 7. Nf3 are better. Black now has the advantage.)

7. ... d5
8. Bg5 Bxf5

(8... d4! is even stronger.)

9. exf5 Bb4
10. Bxf6 gxf6

(I took back this way to keep my pawn center. I probably could have gone with: 10... Qxf6 11 Qxd5 Nc6 and black maintains the edge.)

11. Qg4 Qa5

(On 11... d4 12. O-O-O! and white stands good. I'm feeling real good about my game at this point.)

12. O-O-O ...

(I was wondering if he had the guts to castle into my attack. Not that my king is much safer.)

12. ... Bxc3
13. bxc3 Qxa2

(13... Nc6 14. Kb2 Rc8 is good for black also.)

14. Qg7 Rf8
15. Qxf6 Nd7
16. Qd6 Rc8

(After the game Greg said this move caught him by surprise. He expected me to castle. I figured this position calls for an attack, not a defense. Let's get it on! The threat is 17... Qa1+ 18. Kd2 Qxc3+.)

17. Qb4 ...

(While going over the game Greg suggested 17 c4?! and I tried to punish it with 17...Qa1+?! A better line is 17... Rc6! 18. Qb4 Rb6 and white is in dire straits.)

**Continued on page 10**

*Continued from page 9*

**GAMES FROM THE SPACE CITY OPEN**

17. ... Nc5
18. f3 ...

(To prevent the knight coming in via e4.)

18. ... Na4

(Looks good but 18...Rg8 is better.)

19. Rxd5? ...

(A bad move in a difficult position. 19. Kd2 Rxc3 20. Rc1 and white is ok.)

19. ... Qxd5
20. Qxa4+ Qc6
21. Qxc6 Rxc6
22. Kb2 Ke7
23. Bd3 b5
24. Re1 Kf6
25. g4 Rfc8
26. h4 h6
27. Rg1 ...

(White prepares the advance g5.)

27. ... Rxc3
28. g5+ hxg5
29. hxg5+ Ke7
30. Re1 Kd6

(Both Greg and I are in time trouble here. He has about 5 minutes to make move 40 and I have about 7, so the quality of my moves diminishes until I make the time control. Greg handled the time pressure much better. Here I should have played 30... R3c5.)

31. Be4 R3c5?
(31... a5 is the logical and better move.)

2. Rh1? ...

(32. Ra1 picks off the a pawn.)

32. ... a5
2. g6 fxg6
3. fxg6 Rg8

*Continued on page 11*

**GAMES FROM THE SPACE CITY OPEN**

*Continued from page 10*

34. fxg6 Rg8
35. Rh7 Rc7
36. Rh1 a4?

(I thought this position was relatively safe for me. I was struggling to make the time control and missed the threat.)

37. Rd1+! ...

(Boom! I was planning on 37...Ke6 but then 38. Bd5+! picks off the rook!)

37. ... Ke7
38. Rd5 Kf6

(Another mistake. I should have kept the b pawn by playing 38... Rb8.)

39. Rxb5 Rgg7?

(Yet another mistake. 39... Ra7 is better. I went from having a won position to an uphill struggle for a draw. I was feeling very bad.)

40. Ka3 Rc4

(Time control... finally! Maybe I can make better moves. Maybe not.)

41. Ra5 Rgc7
42. Rxa4 Rc3+

(42... Rxc2 should result in an easy draw. I'm not sure why I didn't take it. I certainly can't win this.)

43. Kb2 R3c5
44. Ra6+ Kg7
45. Rb6 Kh6
46. Kc1 Kg7
47. Rb4 Kf6
48. Bd3 ...

(The game went on for a few more moves. Eventually it became a rook and pawn versus a bishop and two pawns game and we declared it a draw. This game was a roller coaster of emotions for me.)

Eventually Drawn

½ - ½

The end of the 2001 Space City Open report. Thanks to David Hayes for an excellent submission.

# PRACTICAL OPENING REPERTOIRE ADVICE

by Bill Melvin

What opening should I play? What openings do you play? These are questions I hear all the time from players trying to improve. The answer to "What opening should I play?" usually depends more on the person asking the question than anything.

Consider a world class Grandmaster (GM). They have studied openings extensively and written a few books themselves. Detailed analyses containing the latest variations are stored in a computer for easy retrieval. Many work 8 hours/day on chess improvement and much of this time is spent on openings. Most GMs work with equally strong colleagues sharing opening secrets. Within their opening systems they must be familiar with all major variations. This includes key games and analysis of these games. Computers help them too. Nobody ever said playing chess at the GM level was easy. These guys work very hard to play as well as they do.

Consider a complete beginner. Each move is completely original and not based on anything ever played before. Yes, their games will follow theory until one side (or both) makes a random move and leaves the book, but the beginner is completely unaware of anyone named Ruy Lopez.

Most chess players want to have enough opening knowledge to catch the beginners in basic traps but aren't ready to put in 8 hour days like the GMs. The ultimate question is where to draw the line.

A little chess opening knowledge can be a dangerous thing. For instance, the opening sequence: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4 7. Nc3 Nxe4 is very dangerous for either player who is unprepared in the variations of this well-analyzed line. It is a major opening preparation mistake to play into well-analyzed trappy positions without knowing a certain amount of theory. Most quick opening losses are caused by players who played into the middle of a well-analyzed mess and tried to just find the moves over the board. The most common theoretical continuation from the above is actually: 8. O-O Bxc3 9. d5 Bf6 10. Re1 Ne7. This is not a continuation that can easily be found over the board. In theory, any divergence from this sequence would lead to a worse position for the diverging side.

The shortcut for many Class A and Expert players I have met is to specialize in offbeat and usually under-rated variations. This gives the player a chance to win the game in an obscure trap while still producing a position with which they are familiar. Oftentimes just being familiar with a position is more important than the strict theoretical valuation. Couple this with unfamiliarity on their opponents side and repertoires built around such lines often score well. Even GMs occasionally fall into traps in such little known systems. An example of a little used line played by an Expert against me is: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. b4 Bb6 6. b5. Now, that isn't a position you face every day. My opponent had already played this position dozens of time. Solving such positions can be more difficult than well-trod lines.

So, the long answer for building a repertoire is: Build a GM strength repertoire consisting of objectively the best moves. If you lack the time/motivation to do so, then specialize in under-rated variations containing a smaller amount of theory. These "footnote" variations will give you the element of surprise and a few easy points. Half of the fun in chess is experimenting with different opening systems until you find the ones that suit your own individual style. Learn to enjoy this experimenting and improvement is assured.

## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Where has the year gone? It is time again for Alabama Chess players to get together and see where they stand in the pecking order with our fellow Chess players. It has been a long time since I've played tournament chess. It has been a long time since I've played a serious game of Chess. Raising children can take time away from a persons hobbies and I have been busy raising children. I must say that I've got a couple of good ones. Some Chess players are starting families and I pray that they can keep their Chess alive. I'm about done with the raising part, if it is really ever done. My children can do just about everything for themselves except was dishes. If they ran out of clean dishes while I were away I suppose I'd come home and they'd be starved to death. I'm ready to start playing Chess again.

While toiling with the ANTICS over the years I see a lot of new names and I still see some familiar names. Dick Rhea has an old data base that has at least a thousand names of people who at one time were connected to the ACF. I wonder what happened to all those Chess players? Time goes on doesn't it?

This issue of the ANTICS has a lot of wasted space in it because I've not figured out how to flow the type into the next column. I know it has to be easy to do but I guess I don't follow directions well. I'll get it though. Also you noticed the different size type and the different shades of type. This was an experiment of copying e-mail onto a floppy disk and then pasting the mail directly into publisher.. Kinda works good but it does give us different shades of gray.

Lastly, I've told Bill that I will continue with the magazine. I know it has not been very good but I will positively give you a perfect magazine after the State Championship.

## BELVEDERE PARK RESULTS

**Belvedere Park April 2001 Open**

**Open = Section**

| Name | Rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stephen Muhammed | 2390 | W5 | W4 | W2 | W3 | 4.0 |
| Robert Pruitt | 1949 | W6 | W3 | L1 | W5 | 3.0 |
| Ray Quillian | 1779 | W7 | L2 | W5 | L1 | 2.0 |
| Dennis Taylor | 1658 | W8 | L1 | L7 | L6 | 1.0 |
| Michael Haithcock | 1606 | L1 | W8 | L3 | L2 | 1.0 |
| Greg Wilder | 1541 | L2 | L7 | W8 | W4 | 2.0 |
| Lamar Causey | 1503 | L3 | W6 | W4 | W8 | 3.0. |
| Eldred Hightower | unr | L4 | L5 | L6 | L7 | 0.0 |

**Scholastic = Section**

| Name | Rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Keith Belcher | 1136 | W5 | W2 | W4 | W3 | W10 | 5.0 |
| Phillip Causey | 1034 | W6 | L1 | W7 | L5 | W4 | 3.0 |
| Logan Carter | 989 | W7 | L4 | W8 | L1 | W5 | 3.0 |
| Michael McPhie | 838 | W8 | W3 | L1 | W9 | L2 | 3.0 |
| Jordan Manley | 822 | L1 | W9 | W10 | W2 | L3 | 3.0 |
| Lamar Owens | 722 | L2 | L7 | L9 | L8 | L8 | 0.0 |
| Nathan Tate | 695 | L3 | W6 | L2 | L10 | W9 | 2.0 |
| Kevin Lauer | 561 | L4 | B- | L3 | W6 | W6 | 3.0 |
| Derek Teat | 508 | B- | L5 | W6 | L4 | L7 | 2.0 |
| Auturo Cullpepper | 628 | H- | B- | L5 | W7 | L1 | 2.0 |

**Games from the Berlin Wall Tournament**

by Bill Melvin

At the Berlin Wall tournament in Birmingham on March 17, I finally had a good tournament! I was starting to wonder if I'd beat anyone ever again. Here are the games where I broke through the wall!

Berlin Wall March 17, 2001
Round 1 Board 1 Game / 1 hour Vienna Game (C29)
Bill Melvin (2200) Eric Drapkin (1233)

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. f4 exf4? (ECO considers this a losing move! 3. ... d5 was a must.) 4. e5 Qe7 5. Qe2 Ng8 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Nd5 Qd8 8. d4 Nb4 9. Nf4 b6 10. a3 g5 (The computer has white up about a pawn positionally before this move. Now the advantage increases to over two pawns.) 11. Nh5 Nd5 (Now white is up almost a rook according to the machine.) 12. Nf6 Ngxf6 13. exf6 Ne7 14. Bxg5 d5 15. Qe5 Be6 (Now the advantage went from over a rook to over a queen and a rook.) 16. fxe7 Bxe7 17. Qxh8 (Oops! 17. Bb5 Bd7 18. Qxh8 was much stronger.) Kd7 18. Ne5 Kd6 (Ducking 18. ... Kc8 19. Ba6 Kb8 20. Nc6 mate) 19. Bxe7 Qxe7 20. Qxa8 Qh4 21. Kd2 Qf4 22. Kc3 Qe3 23. Bd3 Bd7 24. Rae1 (24. Qf8 is a more forcing mate.) Qh6 25. Nxf7 mate. 1 - 0

Berlin Wall March 17, 2001
Round 2 Board 1 Game / 1 hour From Gambit (A02)
Quinn Parks (1333) Bill Melvin (2200)

1. f4 e5 2. fxe5 d6 3. exd6 Bxd6 4. Nf3 Nf6 (I have a love-hate relationship with this opening. I always feel like I'm losing but my lifetime score has to be close to 100% with it. I prefer 4. ... Nf6 to the more common 4. ... g5 lines. Both are unclear theoretically and I love throwing that knight to g4.) 5. g3 (Live and learn. I didn't know what to do after this move. Everyone else always plays the book 5. d4 move and then forgets the analysis. They never find 5. ... Ng4 6. Qd3. According to ECO, 5. g3 is as playable. I learned something new.) Bg4 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. d4 ?! (7. d3 is the ECO book move. The text allows complications.) Bxf3 8. Bxf3 Nxd4 9. Bxb7 (9. Qxd4?? Bxg3 wins the queen.) Rb8 10. c3 Rxb7 11. Qxd4 (The computer changes from a slight white edge to a slight black edge on this move. 11. cxd4 looks better.) Qe7 12. Bg5 O-O (The computer likes white again. Black should have played 12. ... Rxb2.) 13. Bxf6 gxf6 14. b4 (14. b3 was better as it doesn't provide a target. By the way, I love black's kingside structure. It isn't as bad as it looks. Or, maybe white's queenside is just worse than it looks.) c5 15. Qg4 Kh8 16. a3 Be5 17. Qf3 (As we suspected during the post-mortem, white cannot save the pawn. Best is probably 17. O-O Rg8 18. Qh4 cxb4 19. axb4 Rxb4 20. Qxb4 Qxb4 21. cxb4 Bxa1 where the computer still gives white a slight edge.) cxb4 18. axb4 Rxb4 19. O-O Rb3 (Black has only a slight edge according to the computer. In practice, white's position is much harder to play.) 20. Ra6 Rd8 21. Rc6 Qb7 22. Nd2?? (White was losing a pawn anyway after 22. Qe4 Rd6 23. Rc4 Qxe4 24. Rxe4 Rdb6. The text is just a blunder.) Rxd2 23. Resigns 0 - 1

***More on page 15***

Berlin Wall March 17, 2001
Round 3 Board 1 Game / 75 minutes Ponziani's Opening (C44)
Bill Melvin (2200) Ozgur Aktunc (2000)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c3 (Ponziani's Opening! I once beat a 2500 in this line. I don't play it much as it can easily lead to drawish positions.) d5 (Er, these aren't so drawish!) 4. Bb5 Bg4 (This move doesn't have the best theoretical reputation.) 5. Qa4 Qd6! (Seems like someone once tried 5. ... Bd7? 6. exd5 against me.) 6. d4 (6. Nxe5 was tempting and the computer seems to like it. An older ECO gives 6. d4 as the move leading to a big white advantage.) Bxf3 7. dxe5! Qe6 8. gxf3 Bc5 9. exd5 Qxd5 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11. Qe4 O-O-O 12. Qxd5 cxd5 (Black has some positional compensation for the pawn. The f4 and f5 squares are awkward for white. The computer likes 12. ... cxd5 and 12. ... Rxd5 equally with a white edge of a little over half a pawn.) 13. Nd2 Bb6 (I breathed a sigh of relief with this move. I was worried about 13. ... Re8 14. f4 f6 15. Nf3 Bd6. During the post-mortem, I found 16. Kd1 and white lives happily ever after since 16. ... fxe5 17. fxe5 Bxe5 runs into 18. Re1 winning a piece.) 14. f4 Ne7 15. Nf3 h6 16. a4 (In addition to the obvious threat of winning the bishop with a4-a5, this move limits black's options should white exchange on b6.) a5 17. Be3 c5?! (The computer penalizes black about a pawn for this move.) 18. b4 axb4 19. cxb4 d4 20. bxc5 dxe3 (20. ... Bxc5 fails to 21. Rc1 and a deadly pin.) 21. cxb6 exf2 22. Kxf2 Kb7 23. a5 Ra8 24. Rhd1 Rhd8 25. Rxd8 Rxd8 26. Rc1 Nc6 27. Rc5 Ra8 28. Rd5 Rxa5 29. Rd7 Kxb6 30. Rxf7 Ra7 (Black has kept close to a draw due to the reduced material. 30. ... g5 would seem to offer the better drawing chances. Black should attempt to exchange pawns at every opportunity. The knight can always sacrifice itself for the last one.) 31. Rxa7 Nxa7 32. Nh4 Kc7 33. Nf5 g6 (33. ... g5 offered slightly better chances. White seems to be winning in any event.) 34. Nxh6 Kd7 35. Kg3 Ke6 36. Kg4 Nc6 37. Kg5 Ne7 38. h3 Kd7 39. Nf7 Ke6 40. Nh8! (This is a pretty final touch. The knight voluntarily goes into the corner where it controls only two squares. It controls the square it came from and one other. It just so happens that both squares are critical.) Resigns 1 - 0

Berlin Wall March 17, 2001
Round 4 Board 1 Game / 75 minutes Dunst Opening (A00)
Rick Aeria (2020) Bill Melvin (2200)

1. e4 d5 2. Nc3 (This transposes from 1. Nc3 d5 2. e4.) d4 3. Nce2 e5 4. Nf3 Bd6 (To be avoided are moves like 4. ... Nc6 5. Ng3 Nf6 6. Bb5 where black's structure will get shattered and white's knights will dominate.) 5. Ng3 Be6 6. Bb5 Nbd7 7. O-O c6 8. Ba4 (White had to choose between 8. Be2 and entombing the bishop or parting with the bishop pair. Rick decides that knights may be better than bishops in this position. I won't disagree. The computer likes black by almost half a pawn. I've learned not to value the computer's opinion too much in this type of position.) Nc5 9. Bb3 Nxb3 10. axb3 f6 11. d3 Nge7 12. c3 Bc5 (I'm trying to find my dark-squared bishop a job.) 13. b4 Bb6 14. c4 (White just painted a big sign on his back saying "Attack me!" Yet, I was uncomfortable here. White's advantage is actually on the kingside. All of the minor pieces and pawns point that way. Even with the king on g1, that is where white should probably play.) Qd7 15. Nd2 (This move was a surprise. I figured white was getting ready to move the f-pawn or something.) h5?! 16. Re1?! (Okay, I was bluffing with 15. ... h5. Lines like 16. Nxh5 Bg4 17. Nxg7 Kf7 18. f3 don't work out for

***Continued on page 16***

Continued from page 15

## GAMES FROM THE BERLIN WALL TOURNAMENT

*Game continued*

Berlin Wall March 17, 2001
Round 3 Board 1 Game / 75 minutes Ponziani's Opening ( C44 )
Bill Melvin (2200) Ozgur Aktunc (2000)

black. I was probably going to play 16. ... Kf7 but white should hold after 17. Ng3. Snatching the h-pawn should provide more resistance than letting the attack continue.) h4 17. Nf1 g5 (I was proud of the way I kept the tension on the kingside. I'm still not 100% sure that 17. ... h3 wasn't better.) 18. Nb3 Ng6 19. Nc5 Bxc5 (I was surprised by white's offer to exchange off the horrible b6 bishop. White's play with b2-b4-b5 looks menacing and I'm sure that was the reasoning behind the exchange.) 20. bxc5 Nf4 21. Bxf4 gxf4 (White couldn't allow the knight to sit on f4. Black now gets the open g-file to add pressure to the white king.) 22. f3 Rg8 23. Re2 Qg7 24. Qd2 Bh3?! 25. b4 Bd7! (It is sad to realize that your attack has come to an end and your opponent still has play. This was my sinking feeling after 25. b4. White is ready to continue the attack on the queenside while the kingside holds together. Black's 25th move stabilizes the queenside and prepares a regrouping on the kingside.) 26. Qb2 a6 27. Nd2 h3 (I had planned to play this move as soon as the knight moved away from f1. I had been worried about white creating a bottleneck on g3.) 28. Nb3 Kf7 29. Na5 Rb8! (All defensive rook moves get either a "!" or a "?" in my book! This one is a temporary measure. The rook's ultimate plans are on the kingside. Somebody has to guard the chickens.) 30. Rb1 Qh7! 31. Kh1 Qh5! (I love the maneuver of Qg7-h7-h5. Black has more than one way to get the queen to h5 but going to h7 conceals the intention nicely. Black appears to be preparing to double routinely on the g-file.) 32. Rf1 (This doesn't work out for white. The f-pawn couldn't be saved without losing an Exchange.) hxg2 33. Rxg2 Rxg2 34. Qxg2 Bh3 35. Qf2 Bxf1 36. Qxf1 Qh4 (Played to tie down white. 37. Qg2 would be answered by 37. ... Qe1 38. Qg1 and the exchange of queens.) 37. Qe2 Ke6 (The king is needed to help open up a file on the queenside. Always find jobs for your pieces!) 38. Nb3 Rg8 39. Nd2 Qh3 40. Qf2 Kd7 41. Nb3 Kc7 42. Nc1 Rg3 43. Resigns (Black breaks through decisively.)
0 - 1

# 2001
## State of Alabama
# Chess Championship

Brought to you by the BIRMINGHAM CHESS CLUB
Directed by Kirk Petty

**When?** September 1st thru 3rd, 2001
**Where?** Quality Inn, 260 Goodwin Crest Dr., Homewood, Al.
**Phone!** 205 290 8000 Reserve your rooms early ( it's a holiday weekend ). Mention Chess and the rate is $59 per night.
The **details** are: **6 round Swiss System** format, **Registration** is between 7am and 9pm Sat. Sept. 1st. The **entry fee** is $45, however, Jrs under 19yrs is $40. That is if **paid in advance** by 8/27 **to Kirk Petty** ( As a past state championship organizer, this editor urges you to send in your fees in advance. It helps speed things along and saves you 10 bucks. ) **$10 more after 8/27/01. ACF & USCF** membership is required. Prize fund is based on 60 full entries.

ACF annual meeting and elections will be held Sunday at 2:30pm.

**Rounds:** Saturday 9:30, 3:30. Sunday 9:00 and 4:00, Monday 9:00 and 3:00
**Time control:** 45 moves in 90 minutes and sudden death in 1 hour.

**Alabama game in 5 Championship** will be held at 9:30pm Sunday evening.

**Prizes:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1st** | $500 and a trophy | **2nd** | $250 and a trophy |
| **1st Expert** | $200 and a trophy | **1st "A"** | $200 and a trophy |
| **1st "B"** | $200 and a trophy | **1st "C"** | $200 and a trophy |
| **1st "D/E"** | $200 and a trophy | | |
| **1st "UNR** | $150 and a trophy | | |

**Special prizes:** A trophy will be awarded to the first place Junior participant and also to the top placing Senior ( over 50 ) in addition to any other prize that they may have won,
**Stipulations:** Must have 4 in a class, 10 or more will guarantee a second place in that section.

**SIGURDS CHESS** will be on site to sell books and equipment.

# 2000 Alabama Chess Championship Crosstable

The 2000 championship was held in Montgomery, Al. during the weekend of Sept 2nd through the 4th. Here, better late, may be a good thing . Check out how you friends did lasr year and how well you did.

## OPEN SECTION

| MEM ID. | PLAYER # | NAME | STATE | PRERATING | POSTRATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| 12650696 | 1 | SEVILLANO, ENRICO | GA | 2565 | 2560 |
| 12406133 | 2 | MELVIN, BILL | AL | 2236 | 2236 |
| 10173680 | 3 | WHITEMAN, STEPHEN | GA | 2007 | 2048 |
| 12569456 | 4 | PUCKETT, MATHEW | AL | 2150 | 2172 |
| 12494481 | 5 | LIATTI, MARK L | AL | 2017 | 1997 |
| 10239401 | 6 | DOWNS, RAY | TX | 1955 | 1961 |
| 12583803 | 7 | RICHARDSON, JAMES | AL | 1876 | 1931 |
| 20111993 | 8 | THOMAS, DANIEL | AL | 2238 | 2223 |
| 12563751 | 9 | REEDER, ANDY | AL | 2120 | 2096 |
| 12560185 | 10 | AERIA, ULRIC E | AL | 2023 | 2020 |
| 10239184 | 11 | PRUITT, ROBERT F | AL | 1958 | 1949 |
| 10239974 | 12 | BOND, TIM | AL | 1905 | 1939 |
| 12269580 | 13 | LINHOLM, JAMES R | AL | 1875 | 1897 |
| 12355370 | 14 | MUHAMMAD, STEPHEN | GA | 2387 | 2363 |
| 10416035 | 15 | VETTERLEIN, DAVID | AL | 1924 | 1930 |
| 12480636 | 16 | LAWRENCE, CAESAR | AL | 1829 | 1833 |
| 12497562 | 17 | SCHEUERMANN, JAMES | AL | 1772/11 | 1790/17 |
| 12501963 | 18 | HELTON, SCOTT | AL | 1758 | 1783 |
| 12445682 | 19 | HUDSON, ORIN C | GA | 1660 | 1690 |
| 10206294 | 20 | PEELE, RHODES | AL | 1755 | 1775 |
| 12744446 | 21 | VARAGONA, SCOTT | AL | 1909 | 1918 |
| 12213210 | 22 | SMITH, ROSS OWEN | AL | 1744 | 1726 |
| 12601753 | 23 | HIGGINBOTHAM, WALTER | AL | 1688 | 1664 |
| 12749963 | 24 | D'SOUZA, GILES | AL | 1784 | 1782 |
| 10237548 | 25 | CLEVELAND, CHARLES | AL | 1752 | 1704 |
| 10242746 | 26 | EDWARDS, ROBERT N | TN | 1601 | 1600 |
| 10163561 | 27 | SLOAN, KENNETH | AL | 1813 | 1798 |
| 12453610 | 28 | STRIBLING, MARK P | AL | 1637 | 1610 |
| 12558661 | 29 | BOWEN, JAMES R | AL | 1619 | 1596 |

# 2000 ALABAMA CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

## OPEN SECTION CROSSTABLE

| ROUND 1 | ROUND 2 | ROUND 3 | ROUND 4 | ROUND 5 | ROUND 6 | ROUND 7 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| W--16 | W--13 | D--4 | W--10 | D--14 | W--2 | W--8 | 6 |
| L--21 | W--25 | W--24 | W--11 | W--9 | L;--1 | W--4 | 5 |
| 1/2PT BYE | W--6 | D--7 | D--13 | W--21 | D--4 | W--9 | 5 |
| W--20 | W--24 | D--1 | D--14 | W--8 | D--3 | L--2 | 4.5 |
| W--22 | L--21 | D--20 | D--7 | D--15 | W--17 | W--16 | 4.5 |
| D--18 | L--3 | 1/2PT BYE | W--27 | W--24 | D--7 | W--13 | 4.5 |
| W--19 | D--9 | D--3 | D--5 | D--10 | D--6 | W--15 | 4.5 |
| L--24 | W--27 | W--12 | W--21 | L--4 | W--14 | L--1 | 4 |
| W--17 | D--7 | D--21 | W--15 | L--2 | W--12 | L--3 | 4 |
| W--25 | W--26 | D--14 | L--1 | D--7 | L--13 | W--18 | 4 |
| D--27 | W--18 | 1/2PT BYE | L--2 | L--12 | W--23 | W--20 | 4 |
| L--14 | W--23 | L--8 | W--19 | W--11 | L--9 | W--21 | 4 |
| W--28 | L--1 | W--29 | D--3 | D--20 | W--10 | L--6 | 4 |
| W--12 | W--15 | D--10 | D--4 | D--1 | L--8 | UNPLAD | 3.5 |
| W--23 | L--14 | W--22 | L--9 | D--5 | W--21 | L--7 | 3.5 |
| L--1 | L--22 | W--18 | D--28 | W--27 | W--20 | L--5 | 3.5 |
| L--9 | W--19 | 1/2PT BYE | L--20 | W--22 | L--5 | W--28 | 3.5 |
| D--6 | L--11 | L--16 | W--25 | W--28 | W--24 | L--10 | 3.5 |
| L--7 | L--17 | W--23 | L--12 | W--25 | D--22 | W--26 | 3.5 |
| L--4 | W--28 | D--5 | W--17 | D--13 | L--16 | L--11 | 3 |
| W--2 | W--5 | D--9 | L--8 | L--3 | L--15 | L--12 | 2.5 |
| L--5 | W--16 | L--15 | W--26 | L--17 | D--19 | L--25 | 2.5 |
| L--15 | L--12 | L--19 | BYE | W--26 | L--11 | 1/2PT BYE | 2.5 |
| W--8 | L--4 | L--2 | W-FORFT | L--6 | L--18 | UNPLAD | 2 |
| L--10 | L--2 | L--28 | L--18 | L--19 | BYE | W--22 | 2 |
| W--29 | L--10 | L--27 | L--22 | L--23 | W--28 | L--19 | 2 |
| D--11 | L--8 | W--26 | L--6 | L--16 | UNPLAD | UNPLAD | 1.5 |
| L--13 | L--20 | W--25 | D--16 | L--18 | L--26 | L--17 | 1.5 |
| L--26 | BYE | L--13 | L-FORFT | UNPLAD | UNPLAD | UNPLAD | 1 |

# 2000 ALABAMA CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

## RESERVE SECTION CROSSTABLE

| MEM ID | PLAYER # | NAME | STATE | PRERATING | POSRATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10238633 | 1 | WHEELER, GERALD A | AL | 1585 | 1618 |
| 12686709 | 2 | WAKEFIELD, JOSH N | AL | 1585 | 1598 |
| 12460512 | 3 | DSHALALOW, ALEXAN | GA | 1581 | 1592 |
| 12709057 | 4 | YESSICK, DONALD E | AL | 1445 | 1488 |
| 12606349 | 5 | KIRBY, KEN | AL | 1281 | 1387 |
| 10397162 | 6 | BASHINSKY, ROBERT | AL | 1583 | 1539 |
| 12623740 | 7 | WOOD, FRED E | AL | 1357 | 1390 |
| 12718092 | 8 | CALDWELL, JOHN | AL | 1588 | 1557 |
| 12177130 | 9 | DEWEES, TIMOTHY W | AL | 1417 | 1429 |
| 10237769 | 10 | ELLIS, RICHARD W | AL | 1400 | 1400 |
| 12772553 | 11 | LJUBAS, ROBERT | AL | 1350 | 1384 |
| 12711496 | 12 | GRIFFIN, JIM | AL | 1296 | 1342 |
| 10242533 | 13 | CHAPUIS, BOBBY R | MS | 1527 | 1500 |
| 10238331 | 14 | BANKSTON, CHARLES | AL | 1500 | 1500 |
| 12547680 | 15 | CAUSEY, LAMAR | AL | 1468 | 1453 |
| 12598160 | 16 | MEEHAN, EDWARD | AL | 1231 | 1249 |
| 12526224 | 17 | RIEVES, ROBERT | AL | 1222 | 1211 |
| 12745268 | 18 | DALE, MICHAEL | AL | 1029/09 | 1070/15 |
| 11441769 | 19 | HODGSON, VALERIE | AL | 1521 | 1500 |
| 12502110 | 20 | SCHEUERMANN, MAX | AL | 1494 | 1436 |
| 12699798 | 21 | MELVIN, MILES | AL | 1398 | 1414 |
| 12549039 | 22 | HUTCHINSON, NATHAN | AL | 1277 | 1276 |
| 12135170 | 23 | LANE, RILEY E | GA | 1138 | 1139 |
| 12703439 | 24 | TANJU, AL | AL | 1128 | 1127 |
| 12672212 | 25 | AFRIKA, UCHE A | AL | 1010 | 1003 |
| 12652866 | 26 | WEBB, STEPHEN G | AL | 939 | 995 |
| 12787759 | 27 | MC DONALD, ROBERT | AL | 0 | 1122/07 |
| 12623798 | 28 | BURRUS, MICHAEL L | AL | 1132 | 1098 |
| 21010425 | 29 | CAUSEY, PHILLIP L | AL | 844 | 817 |

# 2000 ALABAMA CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

# RESERVE SECTION CROSSTABLE

| ROUND 1 | ROUND 2 | ROUND 3 | ROUND 4 | ROUND 5 | ROUND6 | ROUND 7 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W--23 | W-29 | W--21 | W--20 | L--2 | W--4 | W--3 | 6 |
| W--12 | L--4 | W--8 | W--9 | W--1 | L--3 | W--5 | 5 |
| W--22 | W--9 | L--20 | W--4 | W--11 | W--2 | L--1 | 5 |
| W--18 | W--2 | W--5 | L--3 | W--21 | L--1 | W--9 | 5 |
| W--6 | W--19 | L--4 | W--15 | W--20 | W--7 | L--2 | 5 |
| L--5 | W--27 | D--15 | D--12 | D--26 | W--22 | W--11 | 4.5 |
| L--27 | W--23 | 1/2PT BYE | W--8 | W--14 | L--5 | W--19 | 4.5 |
| W--11 | D--15 | L--2 | L--7 | W--16 | W--21 | D--13 | 4 |
| W--25 | L--3 | W--26 | L--2 | W--19 | W--13 | L--4 | 4 |
| L--26 | L--17 | 1/2PTBYE | D--24 | W--18 | W--23 | W--21 | 4 |
| L--8 | W--28 | W-29 | W--13 | L--3 | W--20 | L--6 | 4 |
| L--2 | D--24 | W--27 | D--6 | D--15 | D--14 | W--20 | 4 |
| L--21 | W--16 | W--25 | L--11 | W--23 | L--9 | D--8 | 3.5 |
| W--17 | L--21 | 1/2PTBYE | W--22 | L--7 | D--12 | 1/2PTBYE | 3.5 |
| W--28 | D--8 | D--6 | L--5 | D--12 | W--26 | UNPLAD | 3.5 |
| L--19 | L--13 | W--24 | W--25 | L--8 | W--28 | D--22 | 3.5 |
| L--14 | W--10 | L--19 | L--26 | D--25 | BYE | W--27 | 3.5 |
| L--4 | L--22 | BYE | D--27 | L--10 | W--25 | W--26 | 3.5 |
| W--16 | L--5 | W--17 | L--21 | L--9 | W--24 | L--7 | 3 |
| W--24 | W--26 | W--3 | L--1 | L--5 | L--11 | L--12 | 3 |
| W--13 | W--14 | L--1 | W--19 | L--4 | L--8 | L--10 | 3 |
| L--13 | W--18 | 1/2PTBYE | L--14 | W--27 | L--6 | D--16 | 3 |
| L--1 | L--7 | W--28 | W--29 | L--13 | L--10 | D--24 | 2.5 |
| L--20 | D--12 | L--16 | D--10 | BYE | L--19 | D--23 | 2.5 |
| L--9 | BYE | L--13 | L--16 | D--17 | L--18 | W--29 | 2.5 |
| W--10 | L--20 | L--9 | W--17 | D--6 | L--15 | L--18 | 2.5 |
| W--7 | L--6 | L--12 | D--18 | L--22 | W--29 | L--17 | 2.5 |
| L--15 | L--11 | L--23 | BYE | W--29 | L--16 | UNPLAD | 2 |
| BYE | L--1 | L--11 | L--23 | L--28 | L--27 | L--25 | 1 |

# AN OLD GAME REVISITED

The following game was played between myself and bill Melvin on November 11, 1987 in Scottsboro. Scottsboro Chess Club used to have regular quarterly tournaments which were always fun to attend. Imagine being a fairly new organized Chess player , that is chess being organized, I'm certainly not. but, seeing the pairings and I'm paired with the strongest player I've ever seen. Actually most would tell you that there is a sort of relief in playing someone so strong. Trying to win is a must but then again since there is no real chance to win a person has no pressure on them. Or do they? This is the first time I've looked at this game in over 13 years so it isn't real fresh in my mind. It is no surprise that the opening is not in MCO-13 but I try to develop and play the game making it hard for Bill to mate me too early. The average player should learn a lesson from this game. The lesson is not in how I played (an understatement ) but in the mental attitude a person should have when confronted with such an obstacle as a player rated over 800 points more than you. The game follows in paragraph form with a few comments from me.

**Scottsboro, Al. November 14, 1987**
**Jeff Lake V/S Bill Melvin**

**1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4 Bf5 4.g3 Nbd7 5.Bg2** I'm developing , trying to hold Bill back in the center and I'm going to castle no matter what Bill does. **5....c5** here he comes after my center. **6 c3** maybe I'm not so relaxed. This move does more damage than defense. 5. 0-0 should have been played. Because now I see 6.....cxd 7. Qxd and e5 still ain't coming. So Bill plays **6....e6 7. 0-0, Be7 8. Nd2 0-0** so were both developed and ready for someone to do something. Since I'm white I guess I'll bite. **9. Nh4** ya I'm goinna kill this bishop and prepare for e4. I probably should have played Re1 first though. I must have thought that I had Bill on the ropes. If I had played Re1 then Nh4 can I then play e4 with impunity after eliminating Bills' light squared Bishop? Of course, actually not , Bill isn't worried after **9....Re8** because if 10 NxB then 11...BxN and then Bill has real control of the center. Lets move along a few moves. **10.Bg5? Be4 11. f3 Bg6** . Bills' thinking, I suppose, was that after I played c3 he would goad me into moving a pawn again and I did. I hope I was disgusted with the way I'm playing. **12. Nxg6** gotcha **12....hxg6 13. e4 Nh5** Bill could care less about my effort to play e4. **14 BxB QxB** inspite of some *awkward* play on my part , I think I look pretty good. But now I see one major flaw. What was I thinking? Here is a lesson from me. Don't let a person rated 800 points higher than you have all that open space to move around in. You will see that I've made consistent bad moves and Bills' pieces are always on the right square. Actually, my real problem was that I did not have a plan. Oh yea I had a couple of three-move plans but nothing like actually trying to get my pieces where they are. In other words for good or bad, if I had planned to have my pieces where they are or nearly so, then I would be working with a plan. What do you think? My King Rook should have been on e1 a long time ago and I think now the King should be looking to go to f1 that is if the King Rook were on e1. Ok lets continue. **15 exd exd 16 Re1 Qf6 17. Nb3 cxd** I thought I was stopping Bill from capturing. If I had been playing the board I'd have seen it coming. **18 Nxd** Now if I could play chess I think I still have a good position . The knight on h5 is inactive I have a Knight in the middle blocking the isolated pawn which is on a light square. Soooo **18.....Qb6** opens a square for the knight, attacks b2 and pins the Knight on d4. My next move is got to be the worst. Based on my play so far can you guess it? **19. Qb3??? QxQ** of course. **20. NxQ Nf6 21 Nd4.** If we were equal players I'd still like my position. **21.....a3 22. f4 Nb6** Are you ready for a lesson from Bill? I'm about to get one. **23.** b3... I'm worried about a knight on c4? What about, oh my gosh **23.....Ne4!!!** Dang!!! **24. Re3?** Here again I'm not even thinking. Rac1 would have stopped the avalanche for a while. Rooks are really meant to defend and attack along the columns with this many pieces on the board not along the rows. **24.... f5 25.Rae1 Kf7 26. BxN** dumb dumb dumb should have left bad enough alone **26.....dxe 27. h3 Nd5 28. R3e2? 28.....Nxc3 29. Rc2 Nd5 30 Ne2...**I haven't got a clue why I made these past few moves. Yes, I do, I was being smothered and was forced to make most of them. **30.....Rac8 31.Rxc8 Rxc8 32. Rc1 Rxc1** shoot I'm not liking Whites position now, am I. **33 Nxc1 Nc3** now look my knight is tied down. **34. a4 Ke3 35. Kf2 Kd5 36. g4....** We all see that I'm lost but a neAt thing here would be to see how much longer I could last. Instead of g4 wouldn't 36.Ke3 last longer? **36.... Ke4** Aw shucks, time to resign. You're probably thinking I should have resigned a long time ago but hey why pass up a chance to play a strong chess player. Sure my play was pitiful and looking at it today I had some good positions. At the time, I could have played better Chess and I did. Not though. I mentioned that I was calm in playing a high rated player but in retrospect I must not have been. I had been known as a deep thinker. No, really I was.

Here another lesson may be learned: I realize that I was playing Bill Melvin, right? But that is so wrong. I was playing Chess. I should have been playing Chess. **Play the board, NOT your opponent**.

# April 2001 First Sunday Quads

Players:Quad 1

| No. | Name | Pts | Pre | Post | Rnd1 | Rnd2 | Rnd3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Petty, Kirk D | 2.5 | 1908 | 1904 | W4 | D2 | W3 |
| 2 | Higginbotham, Walter Vince | 2.5 | 1662 | 1675 | W3 | D1 | W4 |
| 3 | Rieves,Robert M | 0.5 | 1228 | 1225 | L2 | D4 | L1 |
| 4 | Drapkin,Eric S | 0.5 | nnnn | 1255 | L1 | D3 | L2 |

Players:Quad 2

| No. | Name | Pts | Pre | Post | Rnd1 | Rnd2 | Rnd3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Burrus,Michael L | 2.5 | 1097 | 1102 | W4 | W2 | D3 |
| 2 | Taylor,Shane | 2.0 | 885 | 911 | W3 | L1 | W4 |
| 3 | Acheson,Wayne | 1.5 | nnnn | 794 | L2 | W4 | D1 |
| 4 | Julian,Kyle | 0.0 | nnnn | 520 | L1 | L3 | L2 |

*Kenneth Sloan*
Last modified: Sun May 13 13:13:38 CDT 2001

# May 2001 First Sunday Quads

Players:Quad 1

| No. | Name | Team | Pts | Rnd1 | Rnd2 | Rnd3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dowd,Steven B | | 3.0 | W3 | W2 | W4 |
| 2 | Jones,Ellis Eugen | | 2.0 | W4 | L1 | W3 |
| 3 | Sloan,Kenneth | | 1.0 | L1 | W4 | L2 |
| 4 | Bashinsky,Robert | | 0.0 | L2 | L3 | L1 |

Players:Quad 2

| No. | Name | Team | Pts | Rnd1 | Rnd2 | Rnd3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rieves,Robert M | | 2.5 | W3 | D4 | W2 |
| 2 | Parks, Quinn | | 2.0 | W4 | W3 | L1 |
| 3 | Weinstein,Gilbert | | 1.0 | L1 | L2 | W4 |
| 4 | Taylor,Mark | | 0.5 | L2 | D1 | L3 |

Players:Hex

| No. | Name | Pts | Pre | Post | Rnd1 | Rnd2 | Rnd3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Knowles,Jonathon | 3.0 | 880 | 929 | W5 | W6 | W3 |
| 2 | Weinstein, Eytan | 3.0 | 817 | 876 | W6 | W4 | W5 |
| 3 | Hollingshead,Daniel | 1.0 | 847 | 818 | W4 | L5 | L1 |
| 4 | Schultz, Zach | 1.0 | 793 | 761 | L3 | L2 | W6 |
| 5 | Leithiser,Blake | 1.0 | 783 | 776 | L1 | W3 | L2 |
| 6 | Leithiser,Brooke | 0.0 | 589 | 555 | L2 | L1 | L4 |

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